

*Some Won't Rebuild*

# Hamilton County Hit For \$3 Million Loss

AURORA (Special Dispatch) —Damage in Hamilton County from last Tuesday's tornado that swept over a strip 45 miles in length has been estimated at a total of \$3,000,000.

The estimate was computed jointly by Civil Defense, the Soil Conservation Service and the Hamilton County Extension Service.

A survey shows 42 farms received major damage. Some farmsteads were completely devastated with no buildings left standing and other farmsteads have only the farmhouse or one or two smaller buildings remaining.

Even fences were torn down and the fencing scattered. In some localities steel fence posts hadn't been pulled out were

bent over until the tops almost touched the ground.

The devastated area extends from the Hamilton - Clay County line south of Giltner in a practically straight line to the Hamilton - York County line east of Hampton. The path of destruction generally is two miles in width, although at some points the strip narrows to approximately three-quarters of a mile.

Farmsteads occupied by owners generally will be rebuilt, but some landlords on farms occupied by tenants have indicated they will not rebuild.

Some Hamilton County farm families lost practically all their belongings except the clothing they were wearing. Headquarters in the effort to aid the families in the storm area has been set up by Civil Defense, and the Red Cross has moved in to provide food and immediate needs for the homeless.

Civil Defense has collected and still is collecting clothing, household furnishings, bedding, cooking utensils and dishes for the stricken families, Mrs. Joan Heinzmann, Civil Defense director for Hamilton County, said.

Work details have been out each day but the cleanup is not completed and is still under way. Fields must be cleared of debris before corn or other spring crops can be planted.

Much of the debris has been burned but other disposition must be made of portions of metal buildings. These generally have been dumped in gullies. Very little material from the debris is salvable.

Aurora was not in the tornado path, which was about three miles to the east, but fringe area winds uprooted some trees and inflicted minor damage to some buildings in Aurora.